

**Island County Board of Health  
Regular Meeting - Monday, September 19, 2011  
Minutes**

**DUE TO THE UNAVAILABILITY OF RECORDING EQUIPMENT FOR TODAY'S MEETING, MINUTES ARE IN HARD COPY FORMAT ONLY. THERE IS NO AUDIO RECORDING OF THIS MEETING.**

**Members Present:** Commissioners: Helen Price Johnson, Angie Homola, and Kelly Emerson; Anne Tarrant, Whidbey General Hospital Commissioner; Captain Susan Lichtenstein, MSC, USN, Ex-Officio Member; and, Roger S. Case, MD, Executive Secretary to the Board.

**Members Absent:** Jim Slowik, Mayor of Oak Harbor.

**Call to Order:** Chair Helen Price Johnson called this Regular Meeting of the Island County Board of Health to order at 1:16 p.m.

**Additions or Changes to the Agenda:** Keith Higman, Health Services Director, reminded the Board that Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO)/Lead Entity-Salmon Project, Contract No. 11-1477P had been tabled at the August 15, 2011 meeting. He advised that since that meeting, the Board of County Commissioners has established the Department of Natural Resources to house certain program activities. The County's legal advisor has determined that Department of Natural Resources' contracts do not require Board of Health approval and signature.

**Approval of Minutes:** The Chair called for the approval of the minutes of the August 15, 2011 Regular Meeting. Commissioner Emerson asked for a correction to the discussion on the item referenced as "Contract item 4". After a discussion of the wording of the correction, it was agreed to include: "She [Commissioner Emerson] also commented that she felt she was not allowed an appointment to the WRAC Board." Commissioner Homola moved that the minutes be approved as submitted with the addition of the noted correction. Commissioner Emerson seconded. Member Anne Tarrant abstained from voting as she was not in attendance at the September meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

**Public Input or Comments:** The Chair invited members of the public who wished to provide input or make comments to indicate their wish to do so. There were no requests to comment.

**NALBOH 2011 Recognition Award:** Chair Helen Price Johnson advised the Board that she attended the National Association of Local Boards of Health (NALBOH) annual meeting to accept NALBOH's award on behalf of Keith Higman who was honored with the 2011 Local Health Officer Award for his Public Health service. She formally congratulated Mr. Higman for being named the recipient of this award for his roll of fiscal manager and the manager of people and programs at both the local and at the state level. Commissioner Homola commented how lucky she feels to have Keith Higman stewarding the public's safety through public health.

**Presentation – Quality Improvement: Key to Public Health's Success:**

Keith Higman reminded the Board that the Health Department is embarking on a Quality Improvement initiative to comply with grant funding but also seeing the value that in a time of ever decreasing support, public health can reach intended audiences with a quality product. He introduced Mr. Scott Davis, who is the Quality Improvement Coordinator with the Tacoma Pierce Health Department being funded by the CDC to be a Center for Excellence. Mr. Davis's Center for Excellence funding provides for him to share his expertise assisting other local health jurisdictions such as Island County in their execution of quality improvement planning.

Mr. Davis explained that the Washington State Department of Health established standards in 2005 in acknowledgment of the wide variation in program delivery across local health jurisdictions. The feedback from these standards reviews are a basis for establishing quality improvement projects. He identified the three core functions of public health as: (1) Assessment, (2) Policy Development, and (3) Assurance. Quality improvement is making existing processes/systems better. Quality planning is designing processes/systems so quality is built in. And quality control maintains process performance and maybe getting small incremental improvements along the way.

**Contracts:** Keith Higman presented contract items 1 and 2 for Board consideration:

1. Department of Health – 2007-2011 Consolidated Contract  
Contract No. C14949, Amendment No. 32  
Contract Amount: \$ 3,890,166  
Amendment Amount: \$ 38,708
2. WA State Health Care Authority – ABCD Local Activities  
Contract No. 1163-33933  
Contract Amount: \$ 40,000

Commissioner Homola moved that contract item numbers 1 & 2 be approved as presented.  
Commissioner Emerson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Keith Higman began his presentation of contract item number 3 by explaining that this subcontract is funded through the SRFB contract which legal has advised is a DNR contract and does not fall under Board of Health authority. This item, however, is an amendment to a contract that was originally signed by the Board of Health and therefore amendments to this contract must continue to be approved and signed by the Board of Health.

3. Herrera Environmental Consultants – Ala Spit Restoration  
Contract No. HD-09-10, Amendment No. 1  
Contract Amount: \$ 89,525  
Amendment Amount: \$ 9,120

Mr. Higman explained that this amendment contracts Herrera to perform forage fish spawn surveys during the construction of the Ala Spit Restoration project to determine presence/absence of forage fish spawn before weekly initiation of construction. Commissioner Emerson commented that the amendment shows lack of cost analysis accuracy in the program. Commissioner Homola moved that the amendment be approved as presented. Member Anne Tarrant seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Legislative Updates:** Member Anne Tarrant, Whidbey General Hospital Commissioner, advised the Board that she acted as Master of Ceremonies for the Legislative Tour hosted by Whidbey General Hospital on September 13<sup>th</sup>. The House Health Care and Wellness Committee's regional tour included a visit to the Tulalip Tribe, Skagit Valley Hospital tour and forum and concluded at Whidbey General Hospital for a tour and community/provider forum which included area clinics, public health representatives, and mental health representatives.

**Health Department Report:** Keith Higman introduced Jill Wood as Island County Public Health's Environmental Health Director and invited the Board to use Jill as a resource. He advised the Board that Health's Accounting Supervisor, Linda Telles, will be retiring on September 30<sup>th</sup> and introduced Health's new Accounting Supervisor, Vanya Brown.

Children's Day will be held at the South Whidbey Community Park on September 24<sup>th</sup>. Due to budget constraints, the Health Department had to withdraw financial support but the community has found a way to continue the event this year.

Keith went on to advise that Carrie McLachlan, Assessment & Community Development Supervisor, and her staff have embarked on a Healthy Youth Initiative. With Island Thrift as the funding partner, they will be offering small scholarships for 'Healthy Island Youth Physical Activity' for registration fees, equipment vouchers, and other expenses that are a barrier to a child/youth pursuing an organized physical activity anywhere throughout Island County. There are income qualifiers and dollar limits and applications can be made to <http://www.islandcountyhealth.org/>.

Commissioner Price Johnson updated the Board on the NACo (National Association of Counties) meeting she had recently attended. Lenny Eliason, Athens County, Ohio commissioner, will sit as President. Eliason's presidential initiative will be concentrated on raising the awareness of the link between a healthy lifestyle and the prevention of chronic diseases. Commissioner Price Johnson also talked about her NALBOH (National Association of Local Boards of Health) meeting attendance and made them aware of the Public Health Law Network as a resource and the idea of policy makers thinking locally but looking globally.

**Adjourn:** There being no further business before the Board, Chair Price Johnson adjourned the meeting at 2:25 p.m. The next meeting of the Board of Health will be a Regular Meeting held on October 17, 2011 at 1:15 p.m. in the Commissioner's Hearing Room (B102) in the Court House Annex Building.

Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_  
Roger S. Case, MD  
Executive Secretary to the Board

Minutes approved this 17th day of October 2011  
ISLAND COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

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Helen Price Johnson, Board Chair